

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 30, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 16-18, 26-29, 31-37, and 39-41 remain pending in this application. Claims 12, 30, 38, and 42-49 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 26, and 34 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 26, and 34 are in independent form.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 12, 30, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. The recitations of Claims 12, 30, and 38 have been incorporated into their base claims (Claims 1, 26, and 34, respectively). Therefore, Claims 1, 26, and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 42-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Cancellation of Claims 42-47 renders the rejections of those claims moot. Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejections.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 16, 26-29, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 92/22983 (*Brown et al.*). Claims 18, 33-37, 39, 41-45, 47, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Browne et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,795,092 (*Nagai et al.*); and Claims 17, 32, 40, and 48, as being obvious from *Brown et al.* in view of *Nagai et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,778,139 (*Kim*).

First, cancellation of Claims 42-45 and 47-49 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

Second, as noted above the recitations of allowable Claims 12, 30, and 38 have been incorporated into independent Claims 1, 26, and 34, respectively, and therefore, Claims 1, 26, and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims now believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ra DP', is written over a horizontal line.

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